

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----105606 230505Z /11

R 221421Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 822  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
MAMCONSUL JERUSALEM 361  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 0513

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, SA, US  
SUBJECT: SAUDI CONCERN OVER JERUSALEM TALKS

1. SUMMARY: IN AN ENOTIONAL PRESENTATION TO AMBASSADOR ON JANUARY 21, FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD EXPRESSED STRONG CONCERN OVER PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER DURING JERUSALEM TALKS, HE SAID THAT SADAT HAD LAID ALL HIS CARDS ON THE TABLE AND NOW NEEDS U.S. HELP. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG WOULD NOT CRITICIZE SADAT FOR WITHDRAWING HIS FOREIGN MINISTER BUT WOULD INSTEAD PUT PRESSURE ON THE ISRAELIS FOR CREATING AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION FOR SADAT AT JERUSALEM END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD ASKED TO SEE AMBASSADOR IN RIYADH ON JANUARY 21,1978. MEETING WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY DCM AND USLO CHIEF GNEHM. SAUD ASKED IF AMBASSADOR HAD ANY  
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RECENT NEWS ON STATUS OF JERUSALEM TALKS. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED A REPORT ON THE SECRETARY.S MEETING WITH SADAT IN CAIRO BUT HE HAD HAD OTHER INDICATIONS THAT ISRAELIS WERE SURPRISED BY SADAT'S ACTION OF RECALLING HIS FOREIGN MINISTER, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE HAD BEEN SOME RECENT PROGRESS IN NARROWING DIFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. AMBASSADOR ALSO MADE POINT THAT USG HOPED THAT

TALKS COULD BE RESUMED PROMPTLY AND THAT USG COULD BEST HELP SADAT IN CONTEXT OF ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS.

3. SAUD THEN LAUNCHED INTO AN EMOTIONAL PRESENTATION ATTACKING ISRAELIS FOR MAKING VERY UNHELPFUL PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHILE NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN PROGRESS. HE CLAIMED THAT THESE STATEMENTS HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR SADAT TO CONTINUE TALKS. HE SAID THAT BOTH HE AND THE CROWN PRINCE HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY THE SECRETARY'S REMARK THAT HE HOPED TO CONVINCE SADAT TO SEND A DELEGATION BACK TO THE JERUSALEM POLITICAL CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO SAUD, USG SHOULD BE PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE ISREALIS WHERE THE BLAME BELONGS, RATHER THAN CRITICIZING SADAT FOR WITHDRAWING. HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD BE POINTING OUT THE RIGIDITY OF THE ISRAELI POSITION AND CALLING THE WORLD'S ATTENTION TO THE DESTRUCTIVE TACTICS THEY HAD USED IN MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHILE THE TALKS WERE IN PROGRESS. IN FACT, SAUD SAID, HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT DELEGATIONS WERE COMPLETELY DEADLOCKED. SAUD SAID THAT BOTH U.S. AND SAUDI INTERESTS WERE VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN THE SUCCESSFUL PURSUIT OF A SETTLEMENT AND THE TIME HAD DEFINITELY COME WHEN THE UNITED STATES MUCH EXERT MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON THE ISRAELIS OF THE PEACE EFFORTS ARE NOT TO COLLAPSE.

4. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT EGYPT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SECRET

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TALKS WOULD CREATE A BAD IMPRESSION IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE IS APPEARED THAT THE EGYPTIANS WERE PICKING UP THEIR MARBLES AND GOING HOME INSTEAD OF PLAYING OUT THE GAME.

5. SAUD REITERATED WITH SOME HEAT HIS VIEW THAT ISRAELI ACTIONS HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR SADAT TO CONTINUE THE TALKS IN JERUSALEM AND THAT THE USG SHOULD BE FOCUSING ITS CRITICISM ON ISRAEL RATHER THAN ON SADAT.

6. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT U.S. POSITION HAD NOT CHANGED AND GAVE SAUD A COPY OF THE STATEMENT OF THE THREE-POINT AGENDA MADE BY SECRETARY VANCE AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE JERUSALEM TALKS. HE SAID THAT THESE THREE POINTS HAD BEEN THE BASIS FOR OUR POLICY FOR SOME TIME. USG WAS STILL DETERMINED TO PURSUE ALL POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO A SETTLEMENT BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN THESE

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R 221421Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 823  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
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USMISSION USUN NEW YOUR

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THREE POINTS.

7. SAUD SAID THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT PEACE AND WAS OBVIOUSLY ATTEMPTING TO SPLIT THE UNITED STATES FROM THE ARAB WORLD. THE U.S. SHOULD SEE THROUGH THIS, HOWEVER, AND NOT CAST DOUBTS ON SADAT BUT RATHER PLACE THE BLAME WHERE IT BELONGS. IT WAS TIME FOR A STRONG U.S. REACTION. IF WE LET THE ISRAELIS SUCCEED IN WHAT THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO, A BAD SITUATION WILL RESULT FOR BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AND THE U.S.

8. ABMASSADOR AGAIN POINTED OUT THAT SADAT WAS PLAYING INTO BEGIN'S HANDS BY BREAKING OFF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES AND IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO FACILITATE THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS IF THE TALKS ARE SUSPENDED. AMBASSADOR ALSO  
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SAID THAT WE HAD EVIDENCE THAT SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE TALKS PRIOR TO SADAT'S ACTION.

9. COMMENT: ONCE AGAIN, WE ARE FACED WITH CULTURAL DIFFERENCES THAT LEAD TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN THE

ARABS AND THE WEST. TO THE ARABS, IT WOULD SEEM DIS-  
HONORABLE FOR SADAT TO CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE IN THE ENEMY  
CAPITAL IN THE FACE OF THE PUBLIC REMARKS MADE BY THE  
ISRAELI LEADERSHIP. TO AMERICANS IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT  
SADAT SHOULD NOT BREAK OFF HIS CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION,  
PARTICULARLY SINCE SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. ONCE  
AGAIN, WHETHER BY ACCIDENT OR BY DESIGN, THE ISRAELIS  
ARE CAPITALIZING ON THESE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES TO GAIN  
THEIR SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES, IN THIS CASE TO AVOID MAKING  
CONCESSIONS AND TO SHIFT THE BLAME FOR LACK OF PROGRESS ON  
THE EGYPTIANS. SAUD HAS A GOOD POINT, HOWEVER, IN  
NOTING THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE NEITHER IN U.S. NOR  
SAUDI INTEREST.  
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## Message Attributes

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